

Crusader Newsletter

PRINCIPALS' PERSPECTIVE

As we come to the close of the 2021-22 school year, we are thankful to have returned to the normal rhythm of school. We appreciate the return of so many activities and traditions that we had to forgo during COVID. The anchor of our faith, the commitment of our staff, the resilience of our students and the support of our families, parishes and benefactors have gotten us through these challenging times.

Steubenville Catholic Schools continue to grow in so many areas. Thanks to the growth of Campus Ministry at the high school level, plans moved forward to renovate an upstairs space for a new expanded chapel. This exciting addition will allow larger groups of students to gather for prayer and liturgy. Fine arts continue to expand with the addition of an elementary Drama Program. This school year three musicals were performed in Lanman Hall, one from each of our three schools. This has involved the creativity and musical gifts of countless students and staff. The elementary fifth grade band began sectional classes this year, resulting in many budding musicians preparing to become marching Crusaders! Our students continue to be challenged in the classroom. With the addition of the STEM engineering track at CCHS, as well as the STNA (State Tested Nursing Aide) program, more specialized curriculum is being offered. Our elementary computer classes have an added STEM component. Elementary and Jr. High students continue to compete in the First in Math Program, ranking first and second in Ohio respectively. Our Crusaders competed this year in fourteen varsity sports. Even our youngest Jr. Crusaders participated in an expanded sports program beginning in the first grade. Plans for summer camps and clinics have been announced for our student athletes to carry on the strong tradition of Crusader Athletics. Finally, our commitment to service has been lived out in so many ways this past school year. All three of our schools have worked together to raise funds to continue to sponsor Cynthia's Kitchen, in memory of CCHS student Cynthia Phillipson. Bishop Mussio Elementary participated in the St. Jude's Math-a-thon, raising \$5000 for childhood cancer. Other service projects benefited Catholic Charities, AIM Women's Center and the Friendship Room.

It has been a busy year. In the midst of this, we continue to look to the future and plan for continued growth and improved facilities. Our Campus Master Plan was completed and a feasibility study will be conducted in the months ahead. Stay tuned for more information and exciting updates. We are grateful to be entrusted with the task of educating these young people in mind, soul and spirit. Thank you for the ways you support and partner with us in carrying on the strong tradition of our schools.

May we continue this work of building courage, character, heart and spirit!

God bless and Go Blue-

Thomas J. Costello and Theresa Danaher

Dave Irvin

CCHS Graduation Year: 1982

Current Occupation: Retired Air Force Pilot and current Pilot

Job Title: Boeing 777 Instructor

Organization: Fedex



Who influenced you the most during your time at CCHS and Why?

Sister Barbara Catalana was the Chemistry and Physics teacher at the time, and she would write some short, witty saying on the board that I looked forward to reading every day. But her teaching style and the way she interacted with the students made me look forward to learning from her every day too. She instilled a thirst for knowledge and a love of science (and the process of learning how to learn) that I have carried with me throughout my life. I also have to mention what an incredible influence the Principal, Fr. Massucci, had on me. He was always firm but fair, and he taught me a lot about how important those traits are for anyone who wants to be a good leader. Both of them lived lives rooted in Christ, and the examples they provided served me well throughout my life and career in the Air Force and still today.

What is the most important thing you learned while you were at CCHS?

CCHS taught me the importance of starting the process of developing your body, mind, and spirit on the way to becoming a well-rounded Christian that lives in the world, but is not “of” the world. I’m not sure that I fully grasped it at the time, but we were taught the importance of academics (including the study of music), athletics, and our Catholic faith so that we could use them as the foundations of our lives, like three legs of a stool. As I figured out later, if you don’t have all three pillars in your life, then you get out of balance.

Share your favorite CCHS memory:

Saturday night football games have to be my favorite memories. I played drums in the marching band, and my buddy Jim Molinaro and I would have a blast, playing as loud as we could and just having fun. And it was nice watching my other friend, Brian Allen, tearing it up on the field playing Crusader football.

Do you feel your faith has helped lead you in any of your life and/or career decisions?

Hopefully, I’ve let my faith as a Catholic and a Christian guide me in making all of my life decisions. I’ve tried to incorporate prayer and discernment into all that I do in life. Initially, I had to figure out what college to attend, and I had wildly different options to choose from. Ultimately, after lots of prayer and discussion with my parents, I chose the Air Force Academy. But everyday decisions, like how we treat people, how we handle adversity (and success), and what we teach our kids, should be centered and oriented around our faith. So yes, my faith has helped me greatly with all of those career and life decisions.

What advice do you have for current students to make the most of their experience at CCHS? So the best advice I have to make the most out of school is that you have to be there anyway, so pay attention while you’re there. And I’ve learned to take what I do very seriously (it’s required for being a pilot, or a husband and father), but I try to never take myself too seriously.

What impact did CCHS have on your college/career path/How did your education at CCHS prepare you for what you did in college and are doing today?

CCHS prepared me well for attending the Air Force Academy. Academically, I was able to hold my own as a Chemistry major, and then to handle the rigors of pilot training. Physically, Coach Ken Mannie’s wrestling practices were every bit as tough as military Basic Training, so I was well prepared there. Spiritually, there were plenty of challenging situations (loneliness, being far from home, getting yelled at constantly, etc) to try the soul, but what I learned at CCHS helped me through those too.

What is your greatest professional accomplishment?

My most proud moment came early in my career during pilot training. Training can be tough mentally and physically. It is a constant competition against yourself, trying to be better every day, and against all of your classmates since every event is graded and scrutinized and you are ranked according to performance at the end. There is the potential to work only for yourself and forget about the “team”. It’s a tough balancing act. Most of us were 2nd Lieutenants, the lowest ranking officers that there are. At the end of Pilot Training, when the competition is over, the 2nd Lieutenants have a secret vote to select the “Outstanding 2nd Lieutenant”. I was honored to have been selected by my classmates for that award, and because it wasn’t decided by my superiors, but by my peers, it holds a special place for me.

What activities or sports were you involved in CCHS?

I played drums in the marching band for 5 years and loved every minute of it. I played tennis for 4 years and I still love the game to this day. I spent a year wrestling, and am not sure I’ve done anything as physically demanding since.

What advice would you give current college students interested in pursuing a career in your field?

My advice is that a career in the military is an honorable thing to pursue, and if you feel called, go for it. Just remember that it’s much like a vocation; it will demand a lot from you and your family, but it has the potential to teach you things about yourself and take you places that you might not otherwise discover.

Are you married? Have children? Anything else you would like to share!

My wonderful wife Shannon is a Realtor here in Steubenville, and we have 5 children (Erica, Rachel and Husband Andrew, Nate, Noah and Sophia) and 1 grandson (Drew) who are the centers of our lives. Both of us lived away from Steubenville, but moved back to be with our families and enjoy the benefits of living in a small town where everyone is connected. My parents John and Judith Irvin and mother-in-law Judith Price, along with our numerous brothers and sisters and their families, still live locally and have strong ties to CCHS and the traditions and values it teaches.

STNA Program at Catholic Central

Catholic Central offers an STNA Program that gives our students an opportunity to receive their certification before they even start college. Like other professional positions in the healthcare system, STNAs must be certified before working as nursing assistants. To become a STNA, candidates have to complete the Nurse Aide Training Competency Evaluation Program (NATCEP). This program contains 75 hours of training, 59 of which are in a class and sixteen of which are in a long-term care facility. At the end of this program, candidates will receive a Certification of Completion from the Ohio Department of Health. Candidates have to take the STNA certification exam, which contains a 79 question test. Successful candidates can then enroll in the Ohio nurse aide registry as a State Tested Nursing Assistant.

“This class is exciting because it makes you think of real problems and scenarios and how to solve them.” - Elliana Rice, 11th Grade STNA Student

There are many benefits to our students having an opportunity like the STNA Program at our school. In this program, our students encounter different challenges and gain valuable experience they can put to work every day, along with learning about the healthcare industry. This also gives our students an affordable and flexible way to obtain their STNA certification, giving them a major stepping stone before entering college or whatever field they choose to continue studying in.

“I’m excited to have an introduction into the medical field with some real world application.” - Leon Zaleski, 11th Grade STNA Student

STEM at Steubenville Catholic Schools

Steubenville Catholic Schools has a long history of educational excellence within a faith-filled environment. While our administration and faculty are always focused on creating a balanced curriculum, STEM (Science, Technology, Education & Math) education is an important offering, as there is a high demand for future leaders in these fields.

Bishop John King Mussio Elementary School offers a high-quality curriculum that exposes our students to many educational programs and topics as they begin their journey as a Crusader. All grade levels within the elementary school perform several experiments within our Science Club throughout the year to introduce the students to the scientific inquiry process and general concepts in the STEM fields. The overall goal is to provide students with a broad exposure to these modern fields. Bishop Mussio Elementary also takes part in “First in Math” which is an online program that allows children to practice what they learn—in class or at home. From addition to algebra and beyond, individualized math games engage students at their own skill level.



At Bishop John King Mussio Junior High, the STEM program has shown consistent excellence which has been recognized locally and at the State level. Science is a hands-on curriculum, with multiple labs every week and activities that correlate to the concepts being taught. So far this year, the students in 7th and 8th grade have conducted 15 different experiments, as well as there being a monthly STEM project that students make at home and bring in for extra credit. Often we have contests to see which project works the best. Some examples are catapults that can launch an egg and windmills which are then tested to see which ones turned faster. We also make projects in class that correlate to the curriculum: Newton’s Scooter made from completely recycled material that must travel 12 meters, which displays the second law of motion, and density calculators where measuring items must come within 1-2 grams of the actual weight using random small items as counterweights. We conduct team building days where students are put into random groups and are given an engineering challenge to create something in a 10-15 minute time span. Science Fair is a yearly endeavor where students must demonstrate the scientific method by creating a controlled experiment to present to judges at our local fair. If they are successful, they move on to the district fair (Belmont College). We have had many students win monetary awards there and move on to the state science fair at The Ohio State University Campus. For twelve consecutive years, Bishop Mussio Junior High has achieved the Governor’s Thomas Edison Award.

Steubenville Catholic Central High School has offered high-quality courses in the STEM fields since its inception, preparing students for post-secondary success, which has been a hallmark of a CCHS education. Students take part in many different advanced labs and science experiments, from flame reactions to different chemicals and metals to the study of mitosis and meiosis. Catholic Central students receive a real hands-on experience in our state of the art science lab.

*320 Westview Avenue
Steubenville, OH 43952*

SAVE THE DATE!

Fun Fest 2022

July 1st: 5 PM to 10 PM

July 2nd: 4 PM to 10 PM with fireworks at 10 PM

Homecoming Weekend 2022

Thursday, September 22nd

Athletic Hall of Fame Induction – Mickey Barber Gymnasium, time TBD

Friday, September 23rd

School Pep Rally – approximate start 1:45pm at Steubenville Catholic Central High School

All Alumni Reunion – 5pm – 11pm on the CCHS Pavilion

Featuring food trucks, domestic and craft beer, wine, and CCHS apparel with live performances by ASTRA and the CCHS Marching Band.

Pep Rally and Bonfire

Saturday, September 24th

2nd Annual Crusader Golf Outing – Registration begins at 6:30am,

tee-off at 8am at the Steubenville Country Club

2nd Annual Band Hall of Fame Brunch – 11 AM in the CCHS Cafeteria following the 9 AM Alumni Band Rehearsal in Lanman Hall

All Alumni Vigil Mass – 4pm in Lanman Hall

Homecoming Tailgate – immediately following mass in the CCHS parking lot, followed by the Homecoming Parade to the field at 6pm.

Homecoming football game against Weirton Madonna kick-off at 7:00pm

Ole Fashioned Fish Fry following the game in the CCHS Cafeteria and Pavilion

Upcoming Reunions:

July 9th - Class of 1982 contact Brian Allen for more information at bsallen2@comcast.net

July 16th - Class of 1967 Contact Ed Pagnanelli for more information at edpag8@yahoo.com

July 30th - Class of 1992 Contact Lisa Hall for more information at lhall52@gmail.com

August 6th - Class of 2012 Contact Sarah Wright for more information at swright@bishopmussio.org

September 2nd/3rd - Class of 1965 Contact Katie McCoy for more information at kmccoy2314@aol.com

September 24th - Class of 1972 Contact Mike Olenick for more information at old1mole@verizon.net

Scan to sign up
for the Crusader Golf Outing

